Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for mapping intellectual property, comprising:

searching one or more remote databases for one or more relevant patents; ~~and~~

~~performing a network analysis on the relevant patents and displaying one or more~~ ~~patents~~

parsing noun phrases in claims and cross-referencing one or more discussions of each parsed noun phrases in a description; and

linking each noun phrase to the cross-referenced discussion for reviewing the patent.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising

receiving as a query one or more keywords or assignees to be searched;

searching the query in Issued Patent or Published Application databases;

retrieving cited prior art patents for each patent found in search results;

updating the query by adding assignees from the cited prior art patents; and

running a second search using the updated query.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

for each patent, creating spring relationship among patents having relationship strength based on number of citation of patent prior art; and

generating a spring mass diagram.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising clusterizing patents according to word similarity.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a visualization of the patents for ~~display on a screen or~~ plotting on a large format plotter.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising three-dimensionally visualizing the patents on a 3D display <u>device showing a 3D environment where a user is placed in a virtual environment to enable the user to manipulate and explore IP relationships in three-dimensions</u>.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~allowing a user to review the search result and revise the query~~ <u>annotating a patent drawing by taking an item or part list, associating a corresponding item name with an item number, and showing the corresponding item name with the item number to avoid manual annotation of the drawing</u>.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising caching results from prior IP maps in a remote computer.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising retrieving a cached IP map in response to a user request.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising periodically flushing cached IP maps to ensure a fresh IP map.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising distributing a search over a plurality of peer-to-peer client computers.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein one of the client computers is located behind a firewall, further comprising bypassing the firewall in sending distributed search results to a remote computer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising annotating a patent at a local computer and caching the annotated patent at a remote computer to satisfy a subsequent request for said patent.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for mapping intellectual property, comprising:

    (a) receiving as a query one or more keywords or assignees to be searched;

    (b) searching the query in Issued Patent or Published Application databases;

    (c) retrieving cited prior art for each patent found as search results;

    (d) updating the query by adding assignees from the cited prior art;

    (e) iteratively repeating (b)-(d) using the updated query; ~~and~~

    (f) ~~displaying the intellectual property~~

(g) parsing noun phrases in claims and cross-referencing one or more discussions of each parsed noun phrases in a description; and

(h) linking each noun phrase to the cross-referenced discussion for ease of reviewing the patent.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising ~~network analyzing the search results~~ updating a PDF document by linking from each noun phrase to the description in the PDF document.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented system for mapping intellectual property, comprising:

means for searching one or more remote databases for one or more relevant patents; ~~and~~

~~means for performing a network analysis on the relevant patents and displaying one or more patents~~

means for parsing noun phrases in claims and cross-referencing one or more discussions of each parsed noun phrases in a description; and

means for linking each noun phrase to the cross-referenced discussion for ease of reviewing the patent..

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, further comprising means for generating a computer-readable intellectual property mapping file.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the IP mapping file comprises:

a collection of patent documents, each having one or more links ~~embedded in the first portion~~ referencing one or more external documents viewable using a viewer application; and one or more links embedded in ~~the third~~ a claim portion referencing information contained in ~~the second~~ a description portion; and

links to the external documents generated by a network analysis of relationships among the patent documents, wherein noun phrases in claims are cross-referenced with the one or more external documents, and wherein the external document includes a patent file history.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable media, executable by a processor, containing executable computer program instructions comprising:

code to receive as a query one or more keywords or assignees to be searched;

code to search the query in Issued Patent or Published Application databases;

code to retrieve cited prior art patents for each patent found in search results;

code to update the query by adding assignees from the cited prior art patents;

code to run a second search using the updated query; and

code to perform a network analysis on a search ~~results~~ result and to display the search result;

code to parse noun phrases in claims and cross-referencing one or more discussions of each parsed noun phrases in a description; and

code to link each noun phrase to the cross-referenced discussion for ease of reviewing the patent.

20. (Currently Amended) The media of claim 19, further comprising code ~~to distribute the processing over a plurality of computers~~ annotate a patent drawing by taking an item or part list, associate a corresponding item name with an item number, and show the corresponding item name with the item number to avoid manual annotation of the drawing.